

School Newsletter

Term 2, 2015



A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As term 2 comes to an end it gives us time to reflect on the highs and lows of term 2. We have progressed a long way this term with the updated webpage being put online and a new Yirara Facebook page. Please keep an eye on both of these as they will provide updates on both upcoming events as well as things that have happened at the College.

We have adopted a new Vision Statement which reads as follows;

'Yirara is a Christ centered learning community where indigenous students are empowered to prepare for their future.'

Our existing Mission Statement reads;

Yirara College, a culturally diverse community, strives to develop living skills, worldviews and Christian faith, enabling people to respect and live out their spiritual and cultural identities.

The Year 12 class continues without too many issues and provides the students with an opportunity to gain qualifications through the NTCET (Northern Territory Certificate of Education). This will enable students who choose to study the NTCET to gain employment in their chosen fields.

This year we celebrate the success of several students progressing through a number of Stage 1 subjects toward the NTCET. These students are already very busy working through their Stage 2 subjects. The NTCET is a rigorous and difficult pathway and we pray for our students that they may have patience, commitment and courage as they continue their journey.

Our girl's academy is still in progress with the hope that we will have it up and running late in term 3. This has been long overdue for the girls at Yirara. The fellas have had Clontarf for several years now and it provides an excellent opportunity for the fellas to advance in football and also encourages them to do the right thing with their education.

As the year progresses we are hoping to put more in place to make Yirara College a more exciting place for the students to learn at. We know that education is the key to helping these students in life, we just need for some of them to understand that. Each term families and guardians are welcome to come and stay at Yirara for one to two weeks at the start of the term. This will help to settle the student in their care as a lot of the students still suffer from homesickness in the early stages of the term.

Roger Ashcroft, Principal



Having Fun Go-Karting



Students learning to draw
with perspectives



Helping to look after our
buses and earning some
pocket money at the same
time.



Gloria Mocketarinja presented her very first solo radio show at 8CCC Community Radio.

Gloria goes solo at 8ccc Community Radio.

Gloria Mocketarinja presented her very first solo radio show at 8CCC Community Radio in Term 2. Gloria programmed her music AND scripted her own show. This has been a long journey with students first presenting a 20 minute radio show aired at lunchtimes using the campus Studio.

Gloria will enjoy flying solo as her skills and confidence improve and she seems to be in demand with offers coming from other radio stations in Alice Springs.



For more Yirara TV Stories

Go to

www.yirara.nt.edu.au/whats-on/news

Mr Zane, the house parent from west dorm recently used Finke Sports to assist students to learn about budgeting.

The task was to raise \$120 to attend the event. The fellas used their budgeting skills to work through ways this could be achieved.

"The night finished great and it felt good. It would be good to try it again." said student Mark Fordham.

Every Monday night after dinner, students explore many aspects of life skills in their dormitories.

Photos and comments by Student Mark Fordham.

Fellas Learning Life Skills



"Finke Sports to raise \$120.00....."



Yirara
COLLEGE

Maths Enrichment at Centralian Senior College



During this term, the following Yirara students attended the Maths Enrichment Session at Centralian Senior College:

Gloria Moketarinja, Ezra Nelson, Kasimir Hargraves, Crystella Campbell, Kaitlyn Armstrong.

The session was attended by students from many schools around Alice Springs. Professor Ian McRoberts, formerly of CDU, used challenging problems to help students to improve their mathematical thinking.

The students showed tremendous enthusiasm to learn and to take on new challenges. They were courageous and deserve to be congratulated.



This term Senior Community Services students have visited some community groups in town. This is another way we introduce our students to what a career in those areas might look like. They have visited Waltja and Congress. It opened their eyes to some interesting opportunities and they have also made it into the Waltja Family News Magazine.



STAYING STRONG

Watch Charlie Maher talk to students about staying Strong.

Visit www.yirara.nt.edu.au

look through our news section

You can also click on his picture above if reading this on your computer.

STUDENTS GET MONEYSMART

At Yirara, students are encouraged to think about money management. The College recently introduced various jobs around the campus that students could do to earn pocket money.

Here we have some fellas washing school buses, cleaning both inside and out. This also helps promote pride of ownership of school property.

Yirara College has recently been accredited as a MoneySmart school. Students will learn how to manage money and become smarter consumers through *MoneySmart Teaching* - a national program developed by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).

Visit moneysmart.gov.au/teaching.



Yirara Athletics Sports Carnival 2015



The annual Yirara Athletics carnival was held on Friday 5th June 2015. It was great to see all our students join in and work together to earn points for their sports house.

Some of the events where: Track- 100m, 200m, 400m, 4x4 100m relays, field- shot put, discus, javelin, high jump and long jump.

We also managed some good old favorites like the Sack and 3-legged races. Staff vs students 4x4 100m relays

and the tug of war events was a highlight.

Many of our staff and students spent some time painting their faces and arms with team colors and wearing very creative outfits. The Mohawk wig was a big hit.

Last year's winners was Flemming house. This year it was Albrecht. Well Done every one for a great team effort.

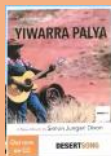
This years winners received a pizza lunch.



Music Update

Mr Drew has been working hard with our students recording a number of songs. We will get to enjoy some of them on the games night just before our students travel home. They will also become very useful as popular backing tracks for the many videos we enjoy.

**Yiwarra Palya
by Pastor Simon**



Our Pastor Simon Dixon has just released a new album. Watch the interview by one of our VET B students, Steve Silver at www.yirara.nt.edu.au or click on the picture below to watch and enjoy some of his music.



Yirara College of the Finke River Mission

Yirara College was established initially in 1973 as a government secondary residential college for traditionally oriented Aboriginal students. Later in 1991 negotiations between Finke River Mission (FRM), the central Australian Aboriginal parent family client group, the Northern Territory Government and the Federal Government commenced with the aim of FRM assuming control of the college. FRM assumed control of the college in 1993.

Today Yirara College is a vibrant and busy community providing a wide range of teaching and recreational resources to its boarding students.